The Brazilians were here for two short weeks and left. Here are some of the comments they made as they parted on February 1st.

“Thank God, every single day, every single moment, everything was perfect. This experience will be in my heart forever.”
Juliana Souza

“The ELI has really helped me to improve my English, and I’ll never forget the time I spent here.”
Vinicius Poliseli

“I appreciate the fact that I got a chance to be here. That’s really a dream, but it’s just the first objective that I have completed. I will continue learning English because I now realize how important it is.”
Leonardo

“The best experience in my life. Thanks!”
Maria Marineli Nogueira

“I am going to Brazil, but I am leaving my heart in Miami.”
Christina

“I love the ELI.”
Margarete

“I went amazing! I can’t believe I studied at the ELI for the last two weeks. It went by so quickly. I’ll always remember this experience.”
Flavio Molina

“Every single day and every single moment was perfect. It will be in my heart forever!”
Juliana Souza

“Thank you all for being part of my life.”
Ingrid Rodrigues

“Being here was an awesome experience! I’ll miss you all dearly. Thanks for everything!”

Daniel Chiminazzo

“It’s so happy I had the opportunity to have this once in a lifetime experience. It was perfect, and I thank all the teachers and staff at the ELI, especially Mr. Sanchez for everything.”

Thiago Souza

“It was an incredible experience being here. I don’t want to go back home. Thanks to everyone for such an incredible experience.”

Leticia

“It was an amazing experience, and I love the fact that I got to meet so many people from different cultures. Thank you for everything!”

Sarah

“Andrea Berbel
“It’s time to make dumplings,” a sharp sounding voice interrupted my sweet dream and woke me up in the early morning. Suddenly, I realized that it was New Year’s Eve, and we had decided to make dumplings and watch the Spring Festival Gala together. It was 7:10 a.m., and my busy morning started.

I quickly took a shower and went downstairs carrying my laptop with me. When I entered the kitchen, I found that my friend was staring at me with some flour stuck to her face. I refrained from laughing at that moment because I thought she might be angry with me. Making and eating dumplings is a very important activity for Chinese families on New Year’s Eve. So, I walked to the dining table, quietly turned on my laptop, and logged in to CNTV.CN, which broadcasts the Spring Festival Gala online yearly. Then I slowly turned around and glanced at her. “Don’t you know the Gala has already started?” she shouted. “Come here! Let’s make the dumplings together,” she said smilingly.

By the time we started making the dumplings, it was already 7:30 a.m., and we only had three hours left to finish.

The Chinese tradition has it that dumplings are to be eaten when the midnight bell rings. So, I started my part by taking several bowls of flour and pouring them into a basin. Then I added in some salt and eggs and stirred the mixture well. After that, I added some water and began to make the flour into a paste. Finally, I put it into the basin to be fermented. When I finished my part, my friend’s part was almost complete. She made the filling with ground beef mixed with cabbage, garlic chives, spring onions, and scrambled eggs, which seemed really delicious. In the meanwhile, we continued watching the gala as we waited for the paste to be fermented.

It was about 10:00 a.m. when we started the last step of making the dumplings. I took out the flour paste from the basin and placed it on the board with some sprinkled flour on it. I then cut a small section from the paste to be rubbed into a stick. After that, I cut the flour stick into small pieces of dough and rolled them with a rolling pin. Then my friend and I picked some filling and put it at the center of the wrapper and folded and pinched the wrapper. Being that there are different ways to eat dumplings, we decided to divide the dumplings into two parts. One way was to make boiled dumplings to be eaten with sauce, and the other way was to make them fried, which is my favorite. Fortunately, we were not late for the countdown, and the dumplings were ready to eat.

It was indeed a really busy morning. I spent all of it making dumplings and later on watched the Spring Festival Gala. Although I was exhausted after that, I felt fulfilled and satisfied. I hope I will have a chance to celebrate New Year’s Eve with my family.
Do you have any true friends?

If a friend always tells your business to other people, it is safe to say that this is not a true friend. This person cannot be trusted and should not be told anything personal. A true friend is someone that you can tell everything to without worrying about being judged, criticized, or made fun of. Also, friends must be able to tell each other the truth and show their true feelings. Sometimes, people do not tell the truth to other people perhaps because they are afraid or think their feelings don’t matter. However, true friends accept each others’ opinions.

First of all, a friend should be someone who supports you at all times. Friends believe in friends, even if sometimes they make wrong decisions. This does not mean that people should let their friends make the same mistakes. A friend can give good sound advice. In my case, I sometimes make wrong choices, but I’m lucky to have friends who encourage me and tell me not to give up. They also help me to find solutions to my problems. I never feel lonely or lost because I have friends whom I can count on.

The second quality of an ideal friend is trustworthiness. Telling all your deep dark secrets to someone means you trust them completely.

Everyone has a different point of view when it comes to the qualities of a ideal friend. For me, an ideal friend is someone who is supportive, trustworthy, and caring. It is not easy to find a true friend, especially with the characteristics I have described; however, I am lucky and proud to say I have true friends that I can count on, who care about me, and whom I can trust. Living in a new country with a new culture can make it rather difficult to find new friends. Knowing the qualities that are most important in a friend is necessary in order to know when you have formed that new friendship.

My hope is that you have true friends that bring out the best in you and are there for you.
The ELI newsletter is a bi-weekly publication of the English Language Institute that updates students on upcoming events and important dates. It invites students to participate in its publication process. It also includes news, trivia, quotes and reading suggestions. You may e-mail any suggestion to Laura Lamour at: llamo001@fiu.edu. The ELI newsletter is produced by ELI instructor Laura Lamour.

On Friday, March 1st, all the ELI students in Levels 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and UBP will take a free TOEFL test. This is a great opportunity for students to measure their English proficiency. Since this is the real test, the scores will count and those students who get 500 for undergraduate programs and 550 for graduate school will have a chance to be admitted to the university if they fulfill all other requirements. Our director will provide you with more information as the date approaches.

### 2013 TOEFL tests and registration dates

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### Interesting Facts and Statistics

- The 3 most common languages in the world are Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English.
- All the blinking your eyes do in one day equates to having your eyes closed for 30 minutes.
- On the day of your birthday, you share it with 9 million other people on the planet.
- An average person will spend 25 years asleep.
- Everyday is a holiday somewhere in the world.
- The most commonly forgotten item for travelers is their toothbrush.
- Apples are more effective at waking you up in the morning than coffee.
- Monopoly is the most played board game in the world.
- Your foot and your forearm are the same length.
- The average person laughs 10 times a day.
- Soccer is the most followed sport.
- Your most active muscles are in your eye.
- When recognizing a person’s face you use the right side of your brain.
- The world’s knowledge is growing so fast that 90% of what we will know in 50 years time will be discovered in those 50 years.
- The average person falls asleep in 7 minutes.